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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic, of Spain. By W. H. Prescott. 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1838. Bentley.

THIS remarkable and important work is the production of an American; and there is singular fitness that it should be the task of one whose country was, as it were, called into existence during the very age he depicts. Mr. Prescott has chosen one of the most important periods in modern history, and one, too, which exercised the greatest control over succeeding times. The foundations of power and influence were then laid; and it is curious to note the germs of after consequences in the great occurrences of the day. It was an age of great events and of great men. Henry VII., despite of the avarice which narrowed his views, was one of the most efficient monarchs that ever held the English sceptre. The same may be said of Louis XI. who, with all his faults, pursued that wise system which secured the then uncertain materials of French power. Ferdinand was in no way behind his royal contemporaries, and added a military genius of a high order. These three monarchs set their stamp upon their time. All three were false and crafty—and of how crafty and small a kind are the intrigues that make so large a portion of the history of the period! Isabella's mind was of a far higher nature. Conscientious, benevolent, far more enlightened in her views than her husband, she is rightly termed in these pages "his good genius." Mr. Prescott institutes a very well written parallel between Isabella of Spain and Elizabeth of England. He casts up the balance much in favour of the former. Now, as far as regards the amiable qualities, we entirely agree with him. As Hume justly observes, a man would have hesitated to choose Elizabeth as a mistress or as a wife; while Isabella possessed all the kinder and more engaging qualities. But if we look, as is the object of the historian, to the public character, Elizabeth had far more commanding talents than the Spanish queen. Isabella's mind was tainted by one prevailing weakness, and the effects of her fatal superstition were of evil consequence in Spain. With the Moors were extirpated, to a great degree, refinement, literary taste, and civilisation, which left their conquerors far behind. With the Jews went the whole spirit of industry and commercial enterprise; and to the age now painted may be traced the bigotry which has rendered one of the finest countries in Europe enervate, oppressed, and uncultivated. We must now, however, make some selection—no easy matter amid such abundance of material; but the romantic circumstances of Isabella's union cannot be omitted, especially as so much interest now attaches to a royal and female marriage.

"While these affairs were in progress, Isabella's situation was becoming extremely critical. She had availed herself of the absence of her brother and the Marquis de Villena in the south, whither they had gone for the purpose of suppressing the still lingering spark of insurrection, to transfer her residence from

Ocaña to Madrigal, where, under the protection of her mother, she intended to abide the issue of the pending negotiations with Aragon. Far, however, from escaping the vigilant eye of the Marquis de Villena by this movement, she laid herself more open to it. She found the Bishop of Burgos, the nephew of the marquis, stationed at Madrigal, who now served as an effectual spy upon her actions. Her most confidential servants were corrupted, and conveyed intelligence of her proceedings to her enemy. Alarmed at the actual progress made in the negotiations for her marriage, the marquis was now convinced that he could only hope to defeat them by resorting to the coercive system which he had before abandoned. He accordingly instructed the Archbishop of Seville to march at once to Madrigal, with a sufficient force to secure Isabella's person, and letters were at the same time addressed by Henry to the citizens of that place, menacing them with his resentment if they should presume to interpose in her behalf. The timid inhabitants disclosed the purport of the mandate to Isabella, and besought her to provide for her own safety. This was, perhaps, the most critical period in her life. Betrayed by her own domestics, deserted even by those friends of her own sex, who might have afforded her sympathy and counsel, but who fled affrighted from the scene of danger, and on the eve of falling into the snares of her enemies, she beheld the sudden extinction of those hopes which she had so long and so fondly cherished. In this exigency she contrived to convey a knowledge of her situation to Admiral Henriquez and the Archbishop of Toledo. The active prelate, on receiving the summons, collected a body of horse, and, reinforced by the admiral's troops, advanced with such expedition to Madrigal, that he succeeded in anticipating the arrival of the enemy. Isabella received her friends with unfeigned satisfaction, and, bidding adieu to her dismayed guardian, the Bishop of Burgos, and his attendants, she was borne off by her little army, in a sort of military triumph, to the friendly city of Valladolid, where she was welcomed by the citizens with a general burst of enthusiasm. In the meantime, Gutierrez de Cardenas, one of the household of the princess, and Alphonso de Palencia, the faithful chronicler of these events, were despatched into Aragon, in order to quicken Ferdinand's operations during the auspicious interval afforded by the absence of Henry in Andalusia. On arriving at the frontier town of Osma, they were dismayed to find the bishop of that place, together with the Duke of Medina Celi, on whose active co-operation they had relied for the safe introduction of Ferdinand into Castile, had been gained over to the interests of the Marquis de Villena. The envoys, however, adroitly concealing the real object of their mission, were permitted to pass unmolested to Saragossa, where Ferdinand was then residing. They could not have arrived at a more inopportune season. The old King of Aragon was in the very heat of the war against the insurgent Catalans headed by the victorious John of Anjou. Although so sorely pressed, his forces were on the eve of disbanding for want of the requisite

funds to maintain them: his exhausted treasury did not contain more than three hundred enriques. In this exigency he was agitated by the most distressing doubts. As he could spare neither the funds nor the force necessary for covering his son's entrance into Castile, he must either send him unprotected into a hostile country, already aware of his intended enterprise and in arms to defeat it, or abandon the long-cherished object of his policy at the moment when it was ripe for execution. Unable to extricate himself from this dilemma, he referred the whole matter to Ferdinand and his council. It was at length determined that the prince should undertake the journey, accompanied by half a dozen attendants only, in the disguise of merchants, by the direct route of Saragossa; while another party, in order to divert the attention of the Castilians, should proceed in a different direction, with all the ostentation of a public embassy from the King of Aragon to Henry IV. The distance was not great which Ferdinand and his suite were to travel before reaching a place of safety; but this intervening country was patrolled by squadrons of cavalry for the purpose of intercepting their progress; and the whole extent of the frontier, from Almazan to Guadalajara, was defended by a line of fortified castles in the hands of the family of Mendoza. The greatest circumspection, therefore, was necessary. The party journeyed chiefly in the night; Ferdinand assumed the disguise of a servant, and when they halted on the road, took care of the mules, and served his companions at table. In this guise, with no other disaster except that of leaving at an inn the purse which contained the funds for the expedition, they arrived late on the second night at a little place called the Burgo, or Borough of Osma, which the Count of Treviño, one of the partisans of Isabella, had occupied with a considerable body of men-at-arms. On knocking at the gate, cold and faint with travelling, during which the prince had allowed himself to take no repose, they were saluted by a large stone discharged by a sentinel from the battlements, which, glancing near Ferdinand's head, had well nigh brought his romantic enterprise to a tragical conclusion; when his voice was recognised by his friends within, and the trumpets proclaiming his arrival, he was received with great joy and festivity by the count and his followers. The remainder of his journey which he commenced before dawn, was performed under the convoy of a numerous and well-armed escort; and on the 9th of October he reached Dueñas, in the kingdom of Leon, where the Castilian nobles and cavaliers of his party eagerly thronged to render him the homage due to his rank. The intelligence of Ferdinand's arrival diffused universal joy in the little court of Isabella at Valladolid. Her first step was to transmit a letter to her brother Henry, in which she informed him of the presence of the prince in his dominions, and of their intended marriage. She excused the course she had taken by the embarrassments in which she had been involved by the malice of her enemies. She represented the political advantages of the connexion, and the sanction it had received from the Castilian nobles; and she concluded with

soliciting his approbation of it, giving him at the same time affectionate assurances of the most dutiful submission both on the part of Ferdinand and herself. Arrangements were then made for an interview between the royal pair, in which some courtly parasites would fain have persuaded their mistress to require some act of homage from Ferdinand, in token of the inferiority of the crown of Aragon to that of Castile; a proposition which she rejected with her usual discretion. Agreeably to these arrangements, Ferdinand, on the evening of the 15th of October, passed privately from Dueñas, accompanied only by four attendants, to the neighbouring city of Valladolid, where he was received by the Archbishop of Toledo, and conducted to the apartment of his mistress. Ferdinand was at this time in the eighteenth year of his age. His complexion was fair, though somewhat bronzed by constant exposure to the sun; his eye quick and cheerful; his forehead ample, and approaching to baldness; his muscular and well-proportioned frame was invigorated by the toils of war, and by the chivalrous exercises in which he delighted. He was one of the best horsemen in his court, and excelled in field sports of every kind. His voice was somewhat sharp, but he possessed a fluent eloquence; and when he had a point to carry, his address was courteous and even insinuating. He secured his health by extreme temperance in his diet, and by such habits of activity, that it was said he seemed to find repose in business. Isabella was a year older than her lover. In stature she was somewhat above the middle size. Her complexion was fair; her hair of a bright chestnut colour, inclining to red; and her mild blue eye beamed with intelligence and sensibility. She was exceedingly beautiful: 'The handsomest lady,' says one of her household, 'whom I ever beheld, and the most gracious in her manners.' The portrait, still existing of her in the royal palace, is conspicuous for an open symmetry of features, indicative of the natural serenity of temper, and that beautiful harmony of intellectual and moral qualities, which most distinguished her. She was dignified in her demeanour, and modest even to a degree of reserve. She spoke the Castilian language with more than usual elegance; and early imbibed a relish for letters, in which she was superior to Ferdinand, whose education in this particular seems to have been neglected. It is not easy to obtain a dispassionate portrait of Isabella. The Spaniards, who revert to her glorious reign, are so smitten with her moral perfections, that, even in depicting her personal, they borrow somewhat of the exaggerated colouring of romance. The interview lasted more than two hours, when Ferdinand retired to his quarters at Dueñas as privately as he came. The preliminaries of the marriage were first adjusted, however; but so great was the poverty of the parties, that it was found necessary to borrow money to defray the expenses of the ceremony. Such were the humiliating circumstances attending the commencement of a union destined to open the way to the highest prosperity and grandeur of the Spanish monarchy!

We must add to this the summing up of the qualities of Cardinal Ximenes.

"He now turned his thoughts to his approaching end. Death may be supposed to have but little terrors for the statesman who in his last moments could aver, 'that he had never intentionally wronged any man: but had rendered to every one his due, without being swayed, as far as he was conscious, by fear or affection.' Yet Cardinal Richelieu, on

his death-bed declared the same. As a last attempt, he began a letter to the king. His fingers refused, however, to perform their office, and, after tracing a few lines, he gave it up. The purport of these seems to have been to recommend his university at Alcalá to the royal protection. He now became wholly occupied with his devotions, and manifested such contrition for his errors, and such humble confidence in the Divine mercy, as deeply affected all present. In this tranquil frame of mind, and in the perfect possession of his powers, he breathed his last, November 8th, 1517, in the eighty-first year of his age, and the twenty-second since his elevation to the primacy. The last words that he uttered, were those of the Psalmist, which he used frequently to repeat in health, 'In te, Domine, speravi,'—'In thee, Lord, have I trusted.' His body, arrayed in his pontifical robes, was seated in a chair of state, and multitudes of all degrees thronged into the apartment to kiss the hands and feet. It was afterwards transported to Alcalá, and laid in the chapel of the noble college of San Ildefonso, erected by himself. His obsequies were celebrated with great pomp, contrary to his own orders, by all the religious and literary fraternities of the city; and his virtues commemorated in a funeral discourse by a doctor of the university, who, considering the death of the good a fitting occasion to lash the vices of the living, made the most caustic allusion to the Flemish favourites of Charles, and their pestilent influence on the country. Such was the end of this remarkable man; the most remarkable, in many respects, of his time. His character was of that stern and lofty cast which seems to rise above the ordinary wants and weaknesses of humanity. His genius, of the severest order, like Dante's or Michael Angelo's in the regions of fancy, impresses us with ideas of power, that excite admiration akin to terror. His enterprises, as we have seen, were of the boldest character: his execution of them equally bold. He disdained to woo fortune by any of those soft and pliant arts which are often the most effectual. He pursued his ends by the most direct means. In this way he frequently multiplied difficulties; but difficulties seemed to have a charm for him, by the opportunity they afforded of displaying the energies of his soul. With these qualities he combined a versatility of talent usually found only in softer and more flexible characters. Though bred in the cloister, he distinguished himself both in the cabinet and the camp; for the latter, indeed, so repugnant to his regular profession, he had a natural genius, according to the testimony of his biographer; and he evinced his relish for it by declaring, that 'the smell of gunpowder was more grateful to him than the sweetest perfume of Arabia.' In every situation, however, he exhibited the stamp of his peculiar calling; and the stern lineaments of the monk were never wholly concealed under the mask of the statesman, or the visor of the warrior. He had a full measure of the religious bigotry which belonged to the age; and he had melancholy scope for displaying it, as chief of that dread tribunal over which he presided during the last ten years of his life. He carried the arbitrary ideas of his profession into political life. His regency was conducted on the principles of a military despotism. It was his maxim, that 'a prince must rely mainly on his army for securing the respect and obedience of his subjects.' It is true he had to deal with a martial and factious nobility, and the end which he proposed was to curb their licentiousness,

and enforce the equitable administration of justice; but, in accomplishing this, he shewed little regard to the constitution, or to private rights. His first act, the proclaiming of Charles king, was in open contempt of the usages and rights of the nation. He evaded the urgent demands of the Castilians for a convocation of Cortes; for it was his opinion, 'that freedom of speech, especially in regard to their own grievances, made the people insolent and irreverent to their rulers.' The people, of course, had no voice in the measures which involved their most important interests: his whole policy, indeed, was to exalt the royal prerogative at the expense of the inferior orders of the state; and his regency, short as it was, and highly beneficial to the country in many respects, must be considered as opening the way to that career of despotism which the Austrian family followed up with such hard-hearted constancy. But, while we condemn the politics, we cannot but respect the principles of the man. However erroneous his conduct in our eyes, he was guided by his sense of duty. It was this, and the conviction of it in the minds of others, which constituted the secret of his great power: it made him reckless of difficulties, and fearless of all personal consequences. The consciousness of the integrity of his purposes rendered him, indeed, too unscrupulous as to the means of attaining them. He held his own life cheap, in comparison with the great reforms that he had at heart. Was it surprising that he should hold as lightly the convenience and interests of others, when they thwarted their execution? His views were raised far above considerations of self. As a statesman, he identified himself with the state; as a churchman, with the interests of his religion. He severely punished every offence against these: he as freely forgave every personal injury. He had many remarkable opportunities of shewing this. His administration provoked numerous lampoons and libels. He despised them, as the miserable solace of spleen and discontent, and never persecuted their authors. In this he formed an honourable contrast to Cardinal Richelieu, whose character and condition suggest many points of resemblance with his own. His disinterestedness was further shewn by his mode of dispensing his larger revenues. It was among the poor, and on great public objects. He built up no family. He had brothers and nephews; but he contented himself with making their condition comfortable, without diverting to their benefit the great trusts confided to him for the public. The greater part of the funds which he left at his death was settled on the university of Alcalá. He had, however, none of that pride which would make him ashamed of his poor and humble relatives. He had, indeed, a confidence in his own powers approaching to arrogance, which led him to undervalue the abilities of others, and to look on them as his instruments rather than his equals; but he had none of the vulgar pride founded on wealth or station. He frequently alluded to his lowly condition in early life with great humility, thanking Heaven, with tears in his eyes, for its extraordinary goodness to him. He not only remembered, but did many acts of kindness to, his early friends, of which more than one touching anecdote is related. Such traits of sensibility, gleaming through the natural austerity and sternness of a disposition like his, like light breaking through a dark cloud, affect us the more sensibly by contrast. He was irreproachable in his morals, and conformed literally to all the rigid ex-

tions of his severe order, in the court as faithfully as in the cloister. He was sober, abstemious, chaste. In the latter particular he was careful that no suspicion of the license which so often soiled the clergy of the period should attach to him. On one occasion, while on a journey, he was invited to pass the night at the house of the Duchess of Maqueda, being informed that she was absent. The duchess was at home, however, and entered the apartment before he retired to rest. 'You have deceived me, lady,' said Ximenes, rising in anger; 'if you have any business with me, you will find me to-morrow at the confessional.' So saying, he abruptly left the palace. He carried his austerities and mortifications so far as to endanger his health. There is a curious brief extant of Pope Leo the Tenth, dated the last year of the cardinal's life, enjoining him to abate his severe penance, to eat meat and eggs on the ordinary fasts, to take off his Franciscan frock, and sleep in linen and on a bed. He would never consent, however, to divest himself of his monastic weeds. 'Even laymen,' said he, alluding to the custom of the Roman Catholics, 'put these on when they are dying; and shall I, who have worn them all my life, take them off at that time?' Another anecdote is told in relation to his dress. Over his coarse woollen frock he wore the costly apparel suited to his rank. An impertinent Franciscan preacher took occasion one day before him to launch out against the luxuries of the time, especially in dress, obviously alluding to the cardinal, who was attired in a superb suit of ermine, which had been presented to him. He heard the sermon patiently to the end, and after the services were concluded, took the preacher into the sacristy, and, having commended the general tenor of his discourse, shewed, under his furs and fine linen, the coarse frock of his order, next his skin. Some accounts add, that the friar, on the other hand, wore fine linen under his monkish frock. After the cardinal's death, a little box was found in his apartment, containing the implements with which he used to mend the rents of his threadbare garment, with his own hands."

Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Prescott for the manner in which he has executed his laborious and important task. No reader but will be touched by the simple manner in which he alludes to its temporary suspension. The work is, however, now complete; and the valuable history is one without which no historical library can be complete.

Jane Lomax; or, a Mother's Crime. By the Author of "Brambletye House," "Reuben Apsley," &c. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1838. Colburn.

IN some cases how difficult it is to disconnect an author and his works. How impossible it is, for example, to open one of his books, and not recall that the pleasant and gentleman-like writer is Mr. Horace Smith. Few men have ever been more socially popular, or more deservedly so,—his friends owe him how many—many pleasant hours, and not a few kind actions. This is, we own, a digression; but the public do take, and have a right to take, an interest in a man who has for years contributed to their amusement. *Jane Lomax*, the novel now before us, is, without question, Mr. Smith's most attractive production. There is the same polished style, the same high moral tone, that distinguished its predecessors; but the characters are more vividly drawn, and the narrative much more dramatic. *Jane Lomax* is a very interesting story, whose ideas are novel,

and worked out with great spirit. The character of the mother, a domestic Lady Macbeth, but led into crime by the means of her best affections, is as bold as it is new; and it is well sustained to the last. The husband, a sketch in water-colours, is equally true; and there is a grace and sweetness in the picture of Benjamin that belong to poetry. We must give a portion of the striking scene in which the will of the old German is destroyed. He is on his death-bed, attended by Jane Lomax, wife to his clerk.

"No sooner had she taken her station by the bed-side, than the sick man, rousing from his feigned slumber, said in a whisper, 'Dat is you, mine goot Mrs. Lomax—I know your voodsteb; is dere nobody else in de room?' An answer was given in the negative. 'Den lock de door,' he continued, 'and bring me de gandle.' She did as she was directed, and Hoffman, fumbling under his pillow and drawing out the will, attempted to read it, but his eye-sight, which had been latterly failing him, was now so defective that he could not succeed, and he handed it over to Mrs. Lomax, saying, with a groan, 'de gursed doctor's stuff has quite spoiled mine eye-sight, so read it to me, read it to me, mine goot voman, but bromise me you will not tell de condends to nobody, bromise me as you are a goot Christian, and fain you read, do not speak doo loud.' She gave the required pledge, and proceeded to read the will, which was very short, the whole of his property being devised, as we have already stated, to his nephew, Edward Ruddock. 'Very goot, very goot,' he exclaimed, when she had concluded; 'bot der is a little godcil what you will like; read it, read it.' By this addition, which seemed to have been recently made, and was all in his own hand-writing, he bequeathed a legacy of two hundred pounds to his faithful clerk, Joel Lomax, who was also appointed one of his executors. The wife expressed her warmest gratitude for this unexpected remembrance, and the sick man, muttering, 'goot, goot, dis will make you gomfortable in your old age—I will egsecute it do-morrow,' again thrust the will under his pillow, and composed himself to sleep."

Jane Lomax takes the will, her husband copies it, substituting his own name: the false document is placed under the old man's pillow, and the following scene ensues:—

"Lomax asked in what way they should dispose of the original will. 'It must be immediately destroyed,' was the reply; 'there is a fire in the kitchen; we will commit it forthwith to the flames.' 'Who is to burn it?' asked the husband, recoiling with a fresh horror from every new step in the enterprise. 'Joel, as we are to share equally the benefits of this act, we will be partners in every particular of its execution. You shall not hereafter claim the merit of having made my fortune, nor will I assume the praise of having showered riches upon your head. Our coming aggrandisement shall be our own joint and equal deed. Take off your shoes; accompany me, without noise, to the kitchen, and we will, together, destroy the only evidence that can prevent the success of our enterprise.' Although the determined look and calm confidence of her air assumed not the language, it produced the effect of a command upon the ductile and irresolute mind of her auditor, who took off his shoes in silent obedience, and stole tremblingly after her, until they reached the bottom of the stairs, where his companion observed that, as there were only iron bars, and no shutters to the window, it would be safer to leave the candle behind them

when they entered the kitchen. They did so accordingly, and, drawing the door after them, were crossing the floor, when a gleam of lightning, emitted by the receding clouds, irradiated for a moment the whole apartment. Clinging in agitation to his wife, Lomax stammered in her ear as he drew her back: 'Stop—stop! I saw a ma—a ma—a man at the window!—a tall, thin man, with a low-crowned hat.' 'A man! impossible! who would let himself down into the area on such a night as this? Your fears have conjured up this phantom. However, we must not run any risks. Man or devil, he shall not long remain undiscovered.' So saying, she unbolted the window, softly raised the sash, and, leaning her head against the bars, was enabled to ascertain that there was no intruder or eaves-dropper in the area. 'As I suspected,' she said, again closing and fastening the window, 'your terrors have seen more than your eyes. Had I such a chicken heart as yours, we should stand little chance of accomplishing our object, and our darling Benjamin—' 'Indeed, dear Jane,' hesitated the husband, 'I could almost wish—that is, if you agree with me—that we had never undertaken it. I could swear that I saw a man in the area! A tall, thin man, with—' 'And I could almost swear that you are besotted with the cordial that you have swallowed. What makes you tremble thus? For shame! for shame! have you not one particle of manhood in your craven heart?' 'The bravest may tremble at guilt, and I am only astonished that you can be so perfectly calm and collected. Dear Jane, it is not yet too late to recede, but if the will be once destroyed—' 'Look you, Joel, I am not a person to be trifled with, nor to be frightened by bugbears from a resolution that I have once deliberately formed. We have gone too far in this matter to stop short, nor am I so weak and pusillanimous, woman as I am, as to lose the glorious prize when it is within my reach. I will do my duty to my dear boy, ay, and so shall you. You must not, nay, you *shall* not, flinch from your purpose. What! still peering with a timid eye at the window? Well, I will remove all your doubts and fears. Behold! I place this screen upon the dresser; and now, if there were a dozen men in the area, not one of them could catch a glimpse either of us or our proceedings.' Suiting the action to her words, she effectually blocked up the window; and then, hurrying to the fire, thrust the will between the bars. As the paper rapidly disappeared, a bright flame arose, throwing a vivid, but momentary, radiance on two countenances of very opposite expression; that of the wife being flushed and animated with the anticipation of success, and the certainty that they had now gone too far to recede; while the husband, as he stood aghast, with open mouth and distended eyes, appeared to be transfixed and stupified by the fearful responsibility of the deed which he had never heartily approved, although he had wanted the resolution to prevent it."

The locale of this novel is perfectly untrod-den ground; but we recommend our readers to accompany Mr. Smith to what he calls "the unromantic purlieus of Bermondsey and Shad Thames." He has made them attractive.

The Life and Times of Louis XIV. By G. P. R. James, Esq., author of "Richelieu," &c. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1837. Bentley. WE do not purpose entering into any critical examination of this work till it be further advanced. The two volumes now before us contain the minority of Louis XIV., or, rather, that earlier portion occupied by the Fronde,

Mr. James shews his usual industry and research, though we confess that we differ in some of his estimates of character. But we shall reserve our opinions till we can give them of the whole. In the mean time, we take two extracts, truly illustrative of that unsettled time: a time of which no account can be uninteresting, and of which an account from the pen of such a writer as Mr. James must be peculiarly acceptable.

Marshal Fabert.—"An anecdote is told of the famous *Maréchal de Fabert*, which gives a strange picture of the exploits where-with the young nobility of France occasionally amused themselves. Fabert, in returning to the court after having executed some mission of importance, was stopped at Clermont en Beauvoisis by the want of post-horses, and went to bed to take some repose while the means of proceeding on his journey were sought for. He kept a light burning in his chamber; and, about two o'clock in the morning, two young officers in the French service, the Count de Rantzau and Monsieur de Quesnai, entered the room in which he was sleeping, for the express purpose of annoying a stranger. Woke by an extraordinary noise, Fabert looked up and beheld two gentlemen dancing as hard as they could in the middle of the room. 'Gentlemen,' exclaimed the marshal, 'you know, I trust, how to behave yourselves!—this room is mine; there are others in the hotel, and I beg you would make use of them.' 'Sir,' replied the count, 'sleep if you can; for my part, I only wish to amuse myself;' and seeing that Fabert, enraged, was starting out of bed, he burst into a violent fit of laughter, exclaiming, 'The matter is serious: Monsieur takes to his slippers!' Fabert, now losing all patience, snatched up his sword and fell upon them; but Rantzau and Quesnai drawing also, got him between them; so that, as soon as he lunged at one, he was exposed to the other: thus he was wounded in fourteen places before any one came to his assistance. At length, however, the noise brought the whole household into the room, and Quesnai, who was nearest the door, was instantly disarmed: at the same moment, Fabert sprang upon Rantzau, threw him on the ground, and, holding his sword to his throat, exclaimed, 'What is your name, villain? Demand your life, or you die!' As he answered nothing, however, the master of the house cried out, 'Hold, hold, Monsieur Fabert! I know him well; his name is Rantzau.' At the celebrated name of Fabert, the young officer burst forth, exclaiming, 'What have I done?—would to God that I were dead!' 'Make your escape, young fool,' cried Fabert, 'and try to conceal yourself from the disgraceful punishment which justice inflicts upon assassins.' The two officers, however, were afterwards taken and tried, though their lives were ultimately spared at the intercession of Fabert. Joined with this wild and sanguinary rashness, there often appeared, as a matter of course, many nobler and more generous traits of character. Courage and resolution, in all their forms, were to be found carried to the highest point; and no one displayed those qualities more strongly than Fabert himself, who joined to the sternest determination a degree of blunt simplicity which savoured of a former and more chivalrous age. Being severely wounded in Piedmont, the surgeons, after having examined his thigh, declared to the Cardinal de Lavalette that it would be necessary to amputate the limb; and that prelate undertook to communicate the tidings

to Fabert himself. The brave soldier, however, demanded to speak with the surgeons in the first instance; and, after having explained to him the nature of the wound, they informed him that they had come to the determination of amputating the leg. 'Gentlemen,' replied Fabert, 'you have not consulted the principal person interested, since it is my life that is at stake. No, no, I do not intend to die by pieces; death shall have the whole of me, or shall have none: who gets the *gigot*, gets the rest of my body. I will be my own surgeon.' And so good a surgeon did he prove, that, ere many weeks had elapsed, he and his valet had completely cured the wound which the others had pronounced incurable. A thousand instances of chivalrous generosity might be cited; and the noble and deep feelings in which they originated, offer a strange contrast, if we will bear them in mind, with the mercenary greediness, levity, and selfishness, which were already beginning, in some degree, to mingle with them, but which did not shine out in all their glaring nakedness till the troublous commencement of the succeeding reign. Chevreuse, the mortal enemy of Montmorency, rendered so by an unfeeling jest upon a personal defect, forgot his enmity the moment that his chivalrous adversary fell into misfortune, used his most strenuous efforts to save his life, and wept bitterly when his death was announced to him. In the attack upon Collioure, the *Maréchal de Meilleraie* raised all the wrath of Fabert by a sneer at the battalion of guards which he commanded, and which, for two years, had been on duty at the court. So high was the indignation of the latter, that he was quitting the head of his troops to take satisfaction on the spot, when he was stopped by Turenne, who in vain endeavoured to reconcile them. Shortly after, the Spanish army being before them, Meilleraie, as a noble kind of concession, sent for Fabert to give him his advice. The angry general, however, refused to quit the head of his troops, replying, that the battalion was ready to obey any orders, but its officers would not leave it. Thereupon Meilleraie rode up to Fabert, exclaiming, 'No rancour, Fabert, in the face of the enemy! Give me your advice:—what ought I to do?' 'Attack them!' was the laconic reply of Fabert. 'March!' replied Meilleraie; and the battalion of guards immediately charged up the hill, and, without the slightest disorder in their ranks, drove the Spaniards from position to position till they took refuge in the town itself. As he returned, Fabert was met by Meilleraie, who sprang from his horse to embrace him, and besought him to come with him immediately, to lay out the plans for attacking Collioure."

Madame de Longueville.—"In the very prime of her youth and beauty, brilliant, admired, and courted, the Duchess of Longueville, of course, excited no little jealousy in persons whose more mature charms were under the influence of life's autumn, and who saw the bright things of existence passing away into the hands of another generation. This feeling seems to have been the most poignant in the bosom of Madame de Montbazou; and, perhaps, D'Enguieu's affection for, and confidence in, his sister, irritated in some degree the elder lady to whom he had attached himself. The intimate friend of D'Enguieu, the Count de Coligni, was suspected of being attached still more strongly to the sister than to the brother; and one day after the Duchess de Longueville had quitted the school of scandal established by the Duchesses of Chevreuse and Montbazou, some letters were found, as if let

fall by her accidentally, which did not tend to put her fidelity to her husband in a very clear light. These letters were brought back to the circle, and read with many a jest and many a comment. The scandal spread all over Paris, and Madame de Montbazou lost no opportunity of promulgating that the letters which had been found had undoubtedly dropped from the person of Madame de Longueville, and were part of her correspondence with Coligni. The whole town was on fire with the tidings; it spread from house to house, and from lip to lip, till at length it reached the Princess de Condé, coupled with information of the part which Madame de Montbazou had played in the whole business. Indignant at the imputation cast upon her daughter, the princess immediately flew to the queen, demanding justice; but, before Anne of Austria could take counsel with her friends and advisers in regard to what she ought to do under such circumstances, the Duke D'Enguieu had at once chosen his part, broken off all communication with the enemies of his sister, and hurled a vehement defiance at the whole cabal, which was instantly taken up by the Duke of Beaufort. The quarrel spread through all their followers and attendants; the officers who had served under D'Enguieu flocked to offer him the support of their swords; the houses of Vendôme, Montbazou, Chevreuse, Guise, and Lorraine, ranged themselves on the other part; and, in a few hours, Paris would have been deluged with blood, if the queen had not exerted herself vigorously to put a stop to the quarrel and decide the dispute by her own authority: while the Prince de Condé, roused from his spathy by the danger of his son, used every energy to prevent the hero of Rocroi from shedding his blood in a pitiful quarrel commenced by a circle of bad women, and carried on by a faction of intriguing men. The queen announced to Madame de Montbazou that she must make reparation to the Princess de Condé, and the express terms were regulated by no less a person than Mazarin, who gained a great accession of influence by the support that he gave to the house of Condé, and by the abasement of one of the heroines of the opposite faction. An apology was drawn up, which Madame de Montbazou was compelled to read before a large assembly of the court at the house of the Princess de Condé; but, in so doing, she used a tone of insolent jest and raillery, which only aggravated her offence in the eyes of the Princess de Condé, and left them as bitter enemies as ever. The more serious disputes between the male parts of the two factions reduced themselves to a duel between the Duke of Guise and Coligni. It is more than probable that the letters were forged; but, whether the Duke of Guise had any share in their fabrication or not, he so warmly espoused the cause of her who had circulated the scandal, that the brunt of the affair naturally fell upon him. The matter needed not, however, to have proceeded to bloodshed, had the counsels of the wise and moderate friends of all parties been attended to; nor would it have done so, had not the mortified vanity of a woman taken part in the business. The Count d'Estrades, famous both as a soldier and a negotiator, was applied to by his relation, Coligni, to carry for him a message to the Duke of Guise, demanding his presence, with a single friend, in the Place Royale. D'Estrades replied that he would do so willingly, but that the duke had already publicly denied having any share in the scandal which had spread from the house of Madame de Montbazou; and that, if he repeated the

denial, he could not properly be called upon to give any further satisfaction. To this Coligni replied, 'That has nothing to do with the matter now. I have pledged myself to Madame de Longueville to fight him in the Place Royale, and I must not fail.' The Duke of Guise instantly accepted the challenge, and repaired early on the morning appointed to the Place Royale, which, though planted with trees, was at that time in the centre of the most fashionable part of Paris. Coligni met him with the Count d'Estrades, who, as was customary in those days, encountered hand to hand, Bridieu, the second of the Duke of Guise. Coligni was disarmed and wounded, and Bridieu was at the same time overcome by the Count d'Estrades, who instantly hurried up to his friend, whom he found severely hurt. Though wounded himself, he offered to Coligni to recommence the combat on his part with the Duke of Guise; but Coligni would not suffer him to do so, and was carried home, where, after lingering for some months, he died, greatly regretted by the whole house of Condé. There appears to have been very little doubt that the duel was entirely promoted by the beautiful Duchess de Longueville: but a still more sanguinary trait is generally added to the history, in which, perhaps, scandal may have had its share. The duchess, we are told, after having exacted from

her lover that he should fight the Duke of Guise, and having ascertained the time appointed, repaired to the house of the old Duchess de Rohan, and there, from behind a blind, became an unseen spectator of the combat which terminated so disastrously for her champion."

We look forward with much interest to the time when the young monarch takes the active power into his own hands.

The Tour of Dr. Syntax in search of the Picturesque; illustrated with Original Designs by Alfred Crowquill. Pp. 361. London, 1837. Ackermann and Co.

It is refreshing to have an old friend brought again to our recollection in a manner so pleasant as this. We remember Dr. Syntax, almost the Pickwick of his day; and the rich and exuberant Rowlandson expending the luxuriance of his genius in his company. If the Doctor was lean, the artist was fat; and between the two, the public regale was always gratifying. To follow such a man as Rowlandson, was no easy task; but the illustrations to this volume, though of an entirely different character, demonstrate how much one person of talent may vary from another, and yet how clever and appropriate may be his views of the

same subjects. As the text of old Syntax is too familiar to tempt us to extract, we shall, therefore, confine our criticism (shall we call it?) to an exhibition of the embellishments, which are, in our opinion, very humorously conceived and ably executed.

Kitty, the maid, substituting her own smart nightcap for the Doctor's wig, displays the hero at a favourable moment; and the headle telling the tailor the news, is as fair a specimen of the artist's skill in identifying other parties. But what shall we say to his monstrous head of a critic? a portrait we never could pardon, but for the full-length publisher who *parallels* him: (there should have been an author to complete the trio). But, after all, this was the likeness of a critic:

"As wits and critics now * were known,
Who hash up nonsense for the town;
And, in the daily columns, shew
How small the sum of all they know."

The bookseller is a happy sketch of the

"Man whose ample paunch
Was made of beef, and ham, and haunch;"

and Syntax's dream of the publication of a flight of volumes, is a whimsical piece, which well suits, with the two preceding wants of literature, to fill up a page of the *Literary Gazette*.

* *Them.*—Ed. L. G.





Treatise on the Microscope, forming the Article under that Head, in the Seventh Edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. By Sir David Brewster, K.G.H. &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 193, with Plates. Edinburgh, 1837. Black.

THERE can be no possible objection to the separate publication of any particular treatise which forms a part of a huge work like modern encyclopædias. In fact, we wish it were even more generally adopted, for the advantages which it possesses of placing each thing desirable at the command of individual taste or pursuit. The name of the author, and his intimate acquaintance with the microscope in all its forms, preclude the necessity of criticism; but the present volume has the great advantage of including the history of the later improvements in lenses, more especially of such as are made of precious stones—diamond, sapphire, garnet, and spinelle,—but we do not see any additional information concerning the lens for the fabrication of which the British Association have accorded a grant of money.

The discoveries by the microscope or engine, as Dr. Goring calls it, have, in modern times, been more fertile in interesting results than ever before. Among the latest novelties, are the detection of infusorial organic remains, consisting of the siliceous shells of animalcules, belonging to the division *Bacillaria*, and which form strata of Tripoli or poli-schiefer in Bohemia. It is impossible to anticipate the immense addition which might be made to our knowledge of extinct races of animalcules, and of organic origin of rock formations, by the extension of such researches. Mr. Ehrenberg has even found, in fusing, animals in the semi-opal of porphyritic rocks. The size of a single individual of these animals is about $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a line, or $\frac{1}{1000}$ of an inch. In the polishing slate from Bilin, in which there appear to be no vacuities, a cube line contains in round numbers 23 millions of these animals, and a cubic inch contains 41,000 millions of them!

Another curious and recent microscopic discovery, is the teeth of the fibres which compose the crystalline lenses of almost all animals. The crystalline lens is composed of innumerable fibres of nearly the same length, each of which tapers from its middle to its two extremities, where it comes to its sharpest point. The sides

of each of these fibres are furnished with teeth like those of a watch-wheel, and the teeth of the one lock into those of the adjacent ones. "The lens of a cod contains five millions of fibres, and sixty-two thousand five hundred millions of teeth," and yet this little sphere of tender jelly is as transparent as a drop of the purest water, and allows a beam of light to pass across these almost innumerable joints without obstructing or reflecting a single ray!" These extracts will furnish some idea of the interest attached to microscopic investigation, and to the work before us.

Excursions in the Abruzzi and Northern Provinces of Naples. By the Hon. Keppel Craven, author of "A Tour through Southern Naples." 8vo. 2 vols. London, 1837. Bentley.

It may seem ungrateful to begin our review with complaints against a publication from which we have derived so much pleasure as we have from the present; but critics are said to be a grumbling race, and it is really owing to, and in proportion to, that pleasure, that we are so disposed to complain. The author, himself an elegant scholar, and familiar with the subjects touched upon in his Italian tours, has taken it too readily for granted that his readers would be prepared to follow him in even his slightest remarks. His fault has, consequently, been the fault not of commission, but of omission; not that he has told us too much or what was not interesting; but that he has told us too little, and avoided circumstances and details where he has created a longing for their minute illustration. When we have come to the mention of Roman and anti-Roman antiquities, of curious Latin inscriptions, of monuments belonging to the dark and middle ages—remains of the Volsci, Marsi, Samnites, Sabines, Lydians?, and relics of the earliest saints and first popes of the Christian church—the increase of appetite has grown with what it fed on; and, like greedy and naughty children, we have cried for more long after our nurse supposed that we had had enough. Would that the microscopic spirit of a Muratori had been grafted on the antiquarian and topographical feelings of our countryman: in short, we wish he had printed four volumes instead of two!

But let us turn to what we have, and endeavour to communicate a taste of it to our readers; only further premising, that a slight outline of the routes would have been very acceptable, and that more particulars respecting artists of great merit, who, together with their works, are mentioned by the author, and who are hardly, if at all, known, even by name, beyond these their native regions, would be a welcome improvement in any future edition.

We will set out with a specimen of what we have alluded to as disappointments. At Antina (probably the Atinates of the Marsi, spoken of by Pliny), it is stated,—

"It retains vestiges of its ancient origin in several portions of polygonal walls, some of which still preserve the form of an entrance or gateway, and serve as such to the modern village, under the appellation of Porta Campanile. The numerous Latin inscriptions which have been found on the spot, have been all collected by the successive members of Signor Ferrente's family and himself, and are to be seen, in excellent preservation, in the vestibules of his house, or the garden adjoining it. They are not without interest, proving that Antina was a place of some importance. This is exemplified by an inscription raised by the corporated institutions of Centonari, Dendrofori, and Armamentari, who united in dedicating this record to Novius Felix, patron of the municipium of Antina. The traces of a no less curious monument are to be seen on a rock just outside the village, where the outline, but nothing more, of an inscription is visible: a copy of this, taken previously to its having become illegible, is to be found in the collection of the antiquities of Antina, published some years back, by a *canonico de sanctis*. It proves to be a sepulchral inscription, in Latin, to a female, named Varia Montana, by her surviving parents, the tenor of which is elegant and impressive."

Now, we would ask, is it not vexatious to hear nothing more of this inscription?—not to have a copy of it? We are so annoyed that we must leave antiquities, for the moment, and turn to modern matters at Antina.

"It would," says Mr. Craven, "be unfair to take leave of this spot without some reference to a distinction which I have heard conferred

upon it by the unanimous assent of all Neapolitans, including the authority of their late sovereign, King Ferdinand I.; and that is, the beauty of its women, which, nevertheless, I afterwards found to be overrated: it must, however, be admitted, that a very superior height of stature, straightness of limb, and regularity of feature, were frequently observable; to which was added a striking, though dark, brilliancy of complexion. But these advantages appeared to be possessed only by such of the softer sex as had already passed the age of thirty; and who, therefore, in these latitudes, had already outstepped the maturity of beauty; for, whatever might be the cause, which I had not leisure to investigate, no female of tenderer years was stamped with the same attractive character. It may, perhaps, be not uninteresting to the amateurs of horticulture to learn, that the only yellow double roses I ever saw blooming in the state of entire perfection were growing under a range of polygonal walls in a neglected vineyard at Atina."

Aquino furnishes another modern trait. "Its episcopal see, now united to that of Sorat, where the bishop resides, extends its jurisdiction over a considerable portion of the province. The town of Pontecorvo, divided in two portions by the Liris, and subject, with some intervals of exception, to the sway of the pope ever since the year 1463, stands about four miles from Aquino. Like Benevento, it is entirely surrounded by the Neapolitan territory; but at so short a distance from the Roman frontier, that it is a matter of surprise that no arrangement has ever been entered into by the parties concerned to place it in immediate contact with the state to which it belongs. Its counts were powerful vassals in the middle ages; and through one of those singular political vicissitudes which have marked the beginning of the present century, the last sovereign of Pontecorvo stepped from the possession of its insignificant principality, upon one of the thrones of Scandinavia."

From the throne of Sweden we shall descend to the description of a scene of a patriarchal character, which is certainly the most striking of its kind which Europe can present. Not far from Aquila, where saffron is largely cultivated on the Aterno and its many tributary streams, our author says:—

"One of the broad tratturi, or cattle-paths, runs in the same line with the high road to Aquila; and I was so fortunate as to see it occupied by a very extended line of flocks, which slowly passed by the carriage for the space of a mile or more. The word 'fortunate,' adapted to such a spectacle, may excite a smile in my readers; but I own that I never beheld one of these numerous animal congregations plodding across the flats of Capitanata, or the valleys of Abruzzo, as far as the eye can reach, without experiencing a sensation of a novel and exciting kind, nearly allied to that of enjoyment, but which I shall not attempt to account for. One shepherd heads each division of cattle, of which he has the peculiar care and direction: armed with his crook, he walks some paces in advance of his flock, followed by an old ram termed *il manso*; which word, meaning tame or instructed, has undoubtedly a more apposite signification than that of our bell-wether, though he is, as well as ours, furnished with a large deep-toned bell. The sheep march in files of about twelve in each; and every battalion, if I may so call it, is attended by six or eight dogs, according to its number: these accompany the herd, walking at the head, middle, and rear of each flank. The beauty and docility of these

animals, which are usually white, has often been described, and their demeanour is gentle as long as the objects of their solicitude are unmolested; but at night they are so savage, that it would be dangerous to approach the fold they guard. The goats, which bear a very small proportion to the sheep, and are in general black, wind up the array, and evince their superior intelligence by lying down whenever a temporary halt takes place. The cows and mares travel in separate bodies. A certain number of these flocks, commonly those belonging to the same proprietor, are under the immediate management and inspection of an agent, entitled *fattore*, who accompanies them on horseback, armed with a musket, and better clad than the shepherds, who, both in summer and winter, wear the large sheep-skin jacket, and are in other respects provided with substantial though homely attire, and good strong shoes. These *fattori* are all natives of Abruzzo, an Apulian never having been known to undertake the profession: the former, through particular habits and the repeated experience of years, are looked upon as so peculiarly fitted for the care required by cattle, and indeed animals of all kinds, that all the helpers in the stables of the capital are natives of these provinces, or of the adjoining county of Molise. In addition to these qualifications, they are esteemed an abstemious and honest race. When following the calling of shepherds, and occupied, as I saw them, in the duties of their charge in travelling, their countenances are almost invariably marked by the same expression, which combines mildness and sagacity with immovable gravity, and it is painful to add, a look of deep-seated sadness; the whole caravan, animal as well as human, exhibiting, at least while engaged in one of those tedious peregrinations, a general appearance of suffering and depression, distinguishable in every individual that composes it. The shepherd that opens the march, the independent *manso*, jingling his brazen bell, the flocks that follow, the dogs that watch over their security, and even the *fattore* who directs the procession, all appear to be plodding through a wearisome existence of monotony and toil. The extreme slowness of their progress, the downcast expression of every head and eye, and, above all, the indications of exhaustion and fatigue which are but too perceptible after a journey of more than a month's duration, may well account for this impression. The animals suffer greatly from heat until they reach their summer dwelling, and full as much from lameness, which, when it has reached a certain pitch, becomes the signal for destruction. I saw a mule bearing no other load than the skins of those that had perished in this manner. Several other beasts of burden follow the rear of the herds, laden with the various articles necessary for them and their guardians during their protracted march: these consist in the nets and poles requisite to pen the folds at night, the coarse cloth tents for the use of the shepherds, and a limited stock of utensils for milking, and boiling the produce of the flock. Among these are to be noticed some portable jointed seats of very ingenious though simple construction, composed of the stems of the giant fennel, a substance remarkable for its light and compact texture. The cattle which I thus met near Aquila were within two days' journey of their resting-place, which is generally in some of the valleys placed on the lower flanks of the mountain ridges, but sufficiently elevated above the larger plains to afford fresh and abundant herbage and a cooler temperature. The duration of their abode in these regions is regulated by the rapid or slow progression of the summer season; in

the course of which they shift their quarters, as the heat increases, till they reach the highest spots, which are the last divested of the deep snows in which they have been buried during three-quarters of the year. Here large tracts of the finest pasture, hills of the coldest and purest water, and shady woods of considerable extension, are occupied by them during the remainder of the fine weather, and afford the *nie plus ultra* of enjoyment allotted to an existence of such restricted variety.

"The upper regions, and most inaccessible recesses of the mountains which cover almost the whole surface of the second Abruzzo Ultra, are the scenes which nature appears to have purposely formed for, and appropriated to, the summer abode of these stupendous flocks. In Abruzzo Citra, or the province of Chieti, as it is likewise termed, no similar pastures exist, though it is not deficient in hilly tracts; and few are to be found in the division of Abruzzo Ultra prima, though the eastern flank and extended ramifications of the king of mountains, the Gran Sasso, are included within its precincts. The paths which the herds follow in their annual migrations to and from Abruzzo are wide tracks marked out on the turf, the integrity of which is attended to with great assiduity. Under the generic name of *Tratturo delle pecore*, they all commence in the province of Capitanata or Puglia piana, and for some time run parallel with each other till they reach the adjoining province of Molise, when some branch off to the higher districts of this region, which, in some of its mountains, especially the *Matese*, affords a limited portion of summer pasture. Continuing in a line with the shore of the Adriatic, the other cattle-paths occasionally intersect one another, and finally extend their various veins into Abruzzo Ultra, as above described. This custom is involved in questions of such vital importance to the proprietors and inhabitants of these provinces, that one can scarcely wonder that it has existed, with very slight changes or modifications, ever since the Roman era, and has, at different periods, called forth the attention of the most enlightened sovereigns and statesmen. Alphonso of Aragon was, however, the first who, by establishing irrevocable laws and regulations as to the mode in which it was to be prosecuted, ensured a considerable revenue to the crown, and at the same time maintained the rights and advantages of the flock-holders. From that epoch, all the lands granted to Apulians, under *Censos*, or *Emphyteusis*, to the sovereign, were charged with the express condition of being let out, during the winter season, for the use of the Abruzzese possessors of cattle. This being enforced as a law, the former found it a matter of consequence, if not of necessity, to their interests, to become likewise proprietors of flocks, in order that, by a system of reciprocity, their herds might join those of Abruzzo in their summer migration, and participate in the benefits which the peculiar topography of that province only could afford to them. It certainly is a circumstance worthy of notice, that the climate and geological formation of two districts so nearly contiguous, and situated on the same line of coast, should differ so essentially as to render one totally unfit to support large flocks of cattle during the summer, while the other is disqualified for maintaining them during the opposite season. It should be noticed, that the measures established by Alphonso of Aragon were entirely favourable to the Abruzzese proprietor, who, though he be the unconstrained and direct owner of his

land, and not a lessee of the crown, can turn it to no other advantage than the pasturage obtained in the summer months; while the Apulian plains are fertile enough, and sufficiently favoured by climate, to repay the slight labour of various modes of cultivation. During the French occupation of the kingdom, a more enlarged and less partial system of policy having prevailed, the restrictions were removed from the Apulians, and being thereby empowered to submit the culture of their land to what species of produce they preferred, much of it was ploughed and adapted to raising corn and cotton—commodities which, for a time, proved a source of considerable gain, but only as long as the freshness of fertility inherent in an unfilled soil, and the facility of disposing of the produce without competition, continued to exist. Time, and the close of the continental war, brought both these to a termination; and it was then discovered that, while the Abruzzese landholder, who had no resource but his flocks, was ruined by the abrogation of the old system, the Apulian proprietor had only gained a temporary advantage over his neighbour; and that a renewal of the anomalous and antiquated laws might, after all, restore a fairer balance between them. Shortly after his return from Sicily, King Ferdinand I. instituted a committee, who, after taking the complaints of the Abruzzese into consideration, and maturely weighing them against the unlimited prerogatives granted to the Apulians, might frame some regulations which might equitably secure the welfare of both. It is difficult to decide whether this result has been obtained by the promulgation of a royal decree, which restored the ancient law to very nearly its original form, granting to the Apulians the right of cultivating one-third of their crown leases in any manner they think fit, but enforcing the obligation of allotting the remainder to the winter occupation of the cattle. This has opened to the Abruzzese the stream of their former prosperity; but the flocks, which had suffered considerable diminution from the causes above specified, have never been, and probably never will be, restored to their original numbers. The Apulians have entirely ceased to have any share in the possession of cattle; and, although they have the power of cultivating, at their own option, one-third of their property, and are certain of letting the remainder during the winter, the rents are so fallen, from the reduction of the flocks, that they find themselves, upon the whole, the only sufferers. Before the year 1800, the amount of sheep alone, that travelled from Apulia to Abruzzo and back again, was estimated at more than a million; but is now reckoned little more than half, of which about sixty thousand resort to the Roman coast for winter dwelling: a small quantity likewise remain in the sheltered parts of Abruzzo; these are called *pagliarde*, and are killed for butcher's meat, or their produce used for the purposes of rural economy. It is calculated that about five thousand individuals obtain a subsistence by attending the cattle.*

Reverting to the Marsi, we are told:—

"The tract of country which they inhabited, and which bore their name, offers the only example of the ancient denomination being retained in common use to this very day; while the same limits, which bound the district they possessed in the early era of the Roman commonwealth, are observed as those of the Marsian territory in the nineteenth century. While the feudal lords of the middle ages assumed the title of some individual town, castle, or territory, the possessors of this portion of

the kingdom styled themselves, first Castaldi, and afterwards Counts of the Marsi, a rank still enjoyed by the Colonna family. It would appear affected in any one to talk of going into Samnium or Lucania; but an excursion *ne i Marsi*, is a proper, and even commonplace, mode of expression. Their towns are distinguished by the same adjunct; and the bishop, who resides at Pescara, instead of deriving the name of his diocese from this town, signs himself *Vescovo de Marsi*.* I hope it will not be deemed a frivolous stretch in favour of identity, to observe, that the present inhabitants of these regions pretend to possess the same occult powers which distinguished their forefathers, in charming venomous reptiles, and rendering them innoxious. In most parts of the Neapolitan dominions they are occasionally to be met with, carrying boxes full of serpents, of all sizes and colours, which they display to the gazing multitude; offering, at the same time, for a very trifling remuneration, to render the spectators invulnerable as themselves. I have frequently seen these individuals, in the early days of spring, sitting at Naples on a sunny parapet, near the sea, exhibiting their collection of reptiles, and collecting, apparently, no inconsiderable contribution from the curiosity or credulity of the bystanders. The operation requisite to secure them against the poison of the snake in future, is performed by slightly scratching the hand or arm with a viper's tooth divested of its venom; then applying a mysterious stone to the puncture; and finally furnishing the patient with an image of, and a prayer to, San Domenico di Cocullo, a village among the Marsian hills, where a celebrated sanctuary is every year thronged by pilgrims from all parts of the province; modern devotion having transferred to a sanctified being the attributes which ancient superstition ascribed to dealers in necromancy and divination. This ceremony is called *ingermare*, a word from which it would be absurd, as some have sought, to derive our expression, 'to charm,' which, undoubtedly, springs from *car-men*, a verse or song; but which may more properly be rendered by inoculate, insert, or engraft."

Again, near Luco, a natural emissary of water is mentioned, and Mr. Craven says,—

"When I visited it, the spot was rendered more remarkable by innumerable swarms of snakes that lay basking in the sun on the stones, and sprang into the water on our nearer approach: they could be seen swimming under the surface round our boat, and darting their tongues against it with all the appearance of wrath and violence. It was impossible not to be reminded of the traditions relative to the charming powers of the ancient

Marsi, and the numerous reptiles said to inhabit their country. The locality also assisted this impression, as the name of Luco is supposed to be derived from the *Lucus Angitia*, the mystic grove in which the inhabitants performed sacrifices in honour of Angitia, the sister of Circe, whom they looked upon as having first taught them the virtues of herbs and simples in healing the bites of serpents, and the power of charming them."

[To be continued.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Domestic Medical Pocket Book, or Family Vade Mecum, &c. &c. By W. H. Kitchie, Surgeon. 8vo. Pp. 278. Southampton, 1837: Fletcher and Son; London, Longman and Co.

"LITTLE knowledge and much danger," is as proverbial as domestic medicine is disliked by the profession. We have, this week, for example, had to trudge from the high contemplation of the effects of civilisation upon the nervous system, and of these, again, upon the treatment of diseases, to the matter of fact work of how much calomel is a dose, and at what period of measles bleeding is advisable. So there will be always two extremes in all things; and his the best course who steers between the two. There are, however—to be serious—advantages in domestic medical works, as they teach how something may be done till medical aid can be obtained; slight grievances may be cured, and more serious ones alleviated; and they are particularly called for on shipboard, where there is no medical man. If, then, they are useful under some circumstances, their chief recommendation should be, simplicity, distinctness, and brevity. We have much pleasure in saying that Mr. Kitchie's book possesses these advantages in an eminent degree, and is highly worthy of patronage where it may be useful.

Dr. Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia, No. XCII. *Geology*. By E. I. Phillips. Vol. I. London, 1837. Longman and Co.

WHATEVER may be the difference of character in the volumes of this series, reaching now to nearly a hundred publications, and there has been much, we can have no hesitation in placing the present continuation among the select few to which the greatest value is to be attached. Mr. Phillips is one of our ablest, most practical, and least theoretical geologists. His views are always expressed with singular plainness and clearness. He knows as much of the science as any body; and he possesses the art of communicating his knowledge to others in the best possible manner. Of this volume before us is a strong example; and we feel assured that, when the sequel is added, we shall have as complete and popular a guide to the facts and inferences of this interesting and important pursuit as its state and condition admit. As far as he has gone, the author has given us a most admirable *résumé*, and combined with it much original matter and reasoning, for which we are indebted to his own intelligent mind.

The Church of England Preacher, Vol. I. Pp. 277. (London, Harding.)—A selection of sermons from eminent divines preached during the year, and in a neat and cheap form. The names of Noel, Mortimer, Chalmers, Dale (Frost and Snow, by the by), Melvill, and others, give assurance of its worth.

The Heart's Ease. Pp. 262. (Cambridge, Stevenson; London, Simpkin and Marshall.)—A reprint of Bishop Patrick's valuable treatise, which we are glad to see again in a popular shape. The afflicted may find much solace in its pages.

Conversations on Chronology. Pp. circ. 100. (London, Pickering.)—An admirable little book "for children," as the title-page has it; but by no means amiss for persons of all ages.

* Another curious notice of regard for names is recorded in the following:—

"Popoli contains about four thousand inhabitants, and presents that aspect of industry and activity which gains upon the partiality of a traveller at first sight. This is probably owing to its position as a thoroughfare, not only between Solimona and Aquila, but likewise between those two cities and Chieti, the capital of the adjoining province, and the shores and ports of the Adriatic sea. It has a good square, and some large houses, among which must be noticed a large and now dilapidated mansion, of handsome architecture, once the residence of the family of Castelmo, dukes of Popoli, and the most opulent and influential in the province. It is now extinct, having merged into that of Tocco, princes of Montemiletto, through the female line. But this last, as well as all the descendants of the heiress in whom it terminated, have considered it a distinction to add the name of Castelmo to their own, with the adjunct Stuart, the authority for doing which I was at some pains to discover. It appears that the original stock of Castelmo, who came from Provence with Charles of Anjou, claimed consanguinity with the kings of Scotland; and succeeded, under our Charles II., in obtaining from that monarch a recognition of the connexion, and his full sanction to bear the name."

Logarithmic and Trigonometric Tables to Seven Places of Decimals. Pp. 300. (London, Simpkin and Marshall.)—A capital set of Tables, and to a very considerable extent.

Letters from an absent Godfather, &c. by the Rev. J. E. Bidele, M.A. Pp. 308. (London, Longman and Co.) The curate of Harrow, and author of "First Sundays at Church," &c. has here given us a very pleasing manual of religious instruction for the young, in which their duties are fully enforced.

A Manual of Conduct; or, Christian Principle Exemplified in Daily Practice, by the Author of the "Morning and Evening Sacrifice, &c." Pp. 451. (Edinburgh, Blackie; London, Longman and Co.)—Full of good moral instructions; an excellent Sunday family book.

Biblical Cabinet, No. XXI. (Edinburgh, J. Clarke.)—This volume has an interesting commentary on the Epistles of Paul, translated by the Rev. W. L. Alexander, from the German of Dr. Beilroth—a very able essay towards elucidating the true meaning of the great Apostle's language.

Selection of Joseph Cottle's Poems. (London, Hamilton, Adams, and Co.)—A fourth edition, which shows the estimation in which the work is held for the use of young persons in religious schools and at home.

Sketches of London, No. III. (London, Orr and Co.)—With two comic etchings this No. contains an account of the famous Lumber Troop, which will, we dare say, be as new to a million of the population of London as to us. These pot-valiant heroes, it seems, have considerable influence on the city of London elections, and municipal affairs. In other respects, they meet at a tavern in Bolt Court, and, with brandy, gin, and beer, pass their nights in convivial style, accompanied by ludicrous ceremonies and debates.

Memoirs of a Smuggler. (Sldmouth, Harvey; London, Longman and Co.; Whitaker and Co.)—A small volume giving, apparently, a genuine account, with a genuine local map, of the adventures of one John Rattenbury, dignified by the title of the Rob Roy of the South, and who passed his life between piloting, smuggling, and gao. There is rather an attempt at fine writing in it; and yet the particulars are not sufficiently described to afford much interest, though some of the escapes are so extraordinary as to be quite romantic. Rattenbury seems to have been a bold and daring fellow—an honour to Beer and Brixham in the smuggling line; and it is to be hoped that his old age will not be left destitute; especially as, on several occasions, he bravely encountered dangers to save life and property on the sea. This book is published for his benefit.

The Cycnure; being Select Passages from the most Distinguished Writers. Pp. 255. (London, Pickering.)—A pretty little volume, with a multitude of tasteful selections from some 200 authors, and a fit companion for the popular "Carcant," by the same editor.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

MR. AIKIN 'On Calico Printing.' No. 2.—After recapitulating the heads of the first lecture on the same subject, which was reported in the *Literary Gazette* a month ago, the secretary, in the present address, proceeds to observe, that the chintz and palampore of India long continued to be the prototypes of European printed calicoes, in which the colours are distributed more or less in masses representing flowers and other natural objects. For these nothing but wooden blocks can be employed; as wood is the only material which with any convenience will allow of the insertion of pieces of felt necessary in those parts of the pattern where a considerable quantity of mordant is required; and, therefore, even at the present day, for such kinds of patterns, block printing is universally practised. At length, in the change of fashion, stripes, &c., running foliage, and other simple and neat, but rather unmeaning patterns, raised in one colour, were introduced. It was soon found, that such patterns could be represented with more delicacy and precision by copper-plate engraving than on wood. The plate and rolling-press were, therefore, introduced into the calico-printer's workshop, instead of the block and mallet. The spirit of competition, a rapidly extending market, and the ambition of "ridding" much work with a comparatively small profit, soon occasioned the substitution of the copper cylinder instead of the plate. The mordants, mixed with gum to the consistency of printer's ink, were distributed on the plate, first by hand and then by machinery; which last, with the necessary modifications, was adapted to the cy-

linder. The time thus saved encouraged the calico-printers to give more precision to their machinery, by means of which, at the present day, they are capable of working two, and even three, cylinders, each distributing a separate mordant at the same time to the same piece of cloth, and at a rate which enables them to finish a piece in three minutes, and with a degree of precision, all things considered, truly surprising. Mr. Aikin then, in a clear and simple manner, explained the chemical part of the process, by means of which such an almost infinite variety of tints and colours are produced; but, as it would be impossible, in the space allotted to this report, to follow the notes of the lecture through the whole of these details—interesting as they are—and, as it would be equally impracticable to give a satisfactory analysis of them, we pass them over, and conclude by noticing the facility with which many compound or simple dyes on calico may be resolved or analysed by the use principally of three re-agents, viz. bleaching liquor, solution of carbonate of potash, and of oxalic or tartaric acid. Indigo blue may be distinguished from Prussian blue by the action of bleaching liquor, which will destroy the indigo, but has no effect on Prussian blue; or by the use of carbonated alkali, which does not touch indigo, while it turns Prussian blue to an iron brown. All vegetable and animal colours yield to bleaching liquor; those that do not are mineral or chemical colours: a colour, therefore, that is compounded of both kinds, may be resolved by the action of this substance. Chrome yellows are shewn by their habitus with carbonated fixed alkali, and by their becoming dark brown after the action of alkali, when touched with solution of an alkaline sulphuret. Iron yellows are soluble in tartaric acid, which chrome yellow is not. Greens, composed of yellow and blue, if both ingredients are vegetable, are discharged by bleaching liquor; if the yellow is chrome, and the blue is indigo, the action of carbonated alkali will discharge the yellow, leaving the blue; while that of bleaching liquor will discharge the blue, leaving the yellow. Brown, composed of oxide of manganese and madder, is resolved by bleaching liquor, which leaves the manganese, or by proto-muriate of tin, which dissolves the manganese.—In the museum were exhibited specimens of wheat, raised by cottagers, by means of dibbling, six inches apart. A memorandum, accompanying the specimens, set forth, that one individual began dibbling one grain of wheat to the square foot, which sprang up regularly, and yielded him forty-two bushels to the statute acre; a large return for 4lbs. 10oz. of seed. The specimens exhibited were prize specimens of the Batel and Hastings Horticultural Society, and measured five feet and a half in height, with ears proportionally large and full.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. FORSTER in the chair.—The secretary read a letter from the president, in which he nominated Mr. Brown, Mr. Forster, Dr. Harsfield, and Mr. Lambert, vice-presidents for the present year.—The chairman read a letter from Lord John Russell, in answer to the address to her majesty, voted at the preceding ordinary meeting, and announcing that her majesty had been graciously pleased to become the patroness of the Society.—A number of casts and impressions of recent ferns and other plants were placed on the table for exhibition by Mr. Morris, of Kensington. In a note which accompanied the specimens, that gentleman stated,

that he found it impossible, in many cases, to determine from the casts whether the divisions of the frond were continuous with the midrib, or elevated on a partial stalk, as in *Pteris falcata*, *Lindsaea trapeziformis*, and others, and that this character, which is also dependent, in some instances, upon whether the cast is taken from the upper or under surface of the frond, has been a source of error in the distribution of fossil species: the circumstance of the divisions of the frond, continuous or not, having been regarded as a character of primary importance by the fossil pterologist. The writer repeated some of Professor Göppert's experiments, by subjecting the specimens to slight pressure between layers of clay, which were slowly dried, and afterwards placed in a furnace; but, from the heat being too great, the whole of the carbonaceous matter was destroyed, nothing being left but a portion of white ashes, which, however, in the cases of *Equiseta* and some *Conifera*, still retained traces of the original structure: others, in which the carbonaceous matter had been preserved, it had coloured the clay to some distance around the specimen. From specimens recently soaked in metallic solutions, such as sulphate of iron, &c. and afterwards placed between layers of clay, as in the former experiments, and subjected to the heat of a furnace, complete casts were obtained, presenting all the appearance of the original plants. Some of these examples, Mr. Morris conceives, explain the condition in which some fossil ferns are found in the sandstones and shales, associated with the carboniferous and oolitic series, that is, partly bituminised and partly mineralised.—Read, a notice of certain Australian quadrupeds, belonging to the order *Rodentia*, by Mr. Ogilby. It is well known that a large proportion of the terrestrial quadrupeds of Australia are marsupial, and that, with the exception of the bats, a very small number indeed of the indigenous terrestrial quadrupeds are non-marsupial; the six or seven species already known belonging exclusively to the order *Rodentia*: the remaining orders, *Quadrumana*, *Carnivora*, *Edentata*, *Pachydermata*, and *Ruminantia*, being without a single known representative in that vast region. The dingo, or native dog, can hardly be classed among the indigenous quadrupeds, as it is always found associated with the natives, and is probably contemporary with their primitive settlement in that quarter of the globe. One of the animals described in the paper is the "native rabbit;" under which name specimens, brought home by the late Mr. George Caley, are in the rich Australian collection of the Linnean society. It forms a new genus, which Mr. Ogilby has named *Conilurus*, with the specific appellation of *Constructor*, from the ingenuity displayed in the construction of its habitation, which is formed of dry sticks and brushwood, and which is so strong and massive, as to completely protect the little animal from the attacks of the native dog. Another animal described in this paper, is a new species of Jerboa discovered by Major Mitchell, surveyor-general of the colony of New South Wales, at Reedy Plains, near the junction of the Murray and Murrumbidgee, on the northern boundaries of Australia Felix. The species has been named by Mr. Ogilby, *Dipus Mitchellii*, in honour of the meritorious officer who discovered it. Charles Lucien Bonaparte and Major Mitchell were present at the meeting. At a general meeting, the Bishop of Norwich was elected president of the Society, in the room of the Duke of Somerset, who has resigned.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE Rev. Mr. Barlow in the chair.—At the usual monthly meeting, fourteen new fellows were elected, and accounts were rendered. Upwards of 4000 persons visited the gardens and museum last month. Stock at the gardens on the 30th November, 276 quadrupeds, 803 birds, 19 reptiles; total, 1098.—In the course of the past month an addition has been made to the living collection, which, from its value and interest, the council specially reported to the meeting. The animal referred to is the Orang-Utan (*Pithecius satyrus*) of St. Hilaire, which was obtained by purchase at the cost of one hundred guineas. It is a young female, and appears at present to be in a satisfactory state of health. It was brought to this country by a person engaged in commercial pursuits, who purchased it at Singapore, to which place it had been forwarded from Borneo. The apparently good health of the animal, the equal temperature of her abode—a portion of the giraffe-house—and the readiness with which she has become attached to her keeper, justify the hope of her being for a long period a source of interest and of attraction at the gardens.—Mr. Yarrell gave in his resignation as secretary, which was received with much regret.—A vote of thanks was unanimously given to him for his zeal and ability in promoting the interests of the Society, and of zoology in general.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 21. Dr. Birkbeck, president, in the chair.—This was the first meeting of the session 1837–8. After the formule of the Society were disposed of, six practical meteorologists were admitted members. The papers were numerous and valuable. The first paper read was 'On the Natural History and probable Causes of the Vernal Winds of the North of England, as they prevail in Westmoreland.' The author of this excellent paper, the late Mr. John Gough, was deprived, at a very early period of his life, of one of the most valuable of his senses—sight; yet, his love for scientific studies was so great, that he eventually became an eminent mathematician, philosopher, botanist, &c. He devoted much time to meteorology, and observes, with regard to the causes of the vernal winds of Westmoreland, that "every phenomenon which is periodical, like the easterly winds of spring, must be ascribed to a cause equally periodical." Mr. Gough ascribes the cause of these winds to the progressive advances of the spring from the south to the north, which commences, in Italy, about the 20th of February, and is equally advanced in England about the middle of April, at which time the countries on the confines of the arctic circle remain buried in snow. This difference in the temperature of the atmosphere of Britain, and the more northern regions, gives a greater specific gravity to the air of Sweden and Norway than to that of England, and all the intervening countries which are free from snow; and this excess of density Mr. Gough assigns as the cause of the vernal winds. This conjecture is founded on that law of hydrostatics which proves, that when two columns of air, of different specific gravities, rest upon contiguous bases, the heavier will remove the lighter, and flow into its place. The drought which generally prevails in April, Mr. Gough ascribes to these vernal winds; because, he writes, "As the cold current begins to blow over the warmer lands, it begins to acquire heat, and with it, the power of dissolving more water—hence the drought." The next paper read was from

Lieut. Morrison, R.N., of Cheltenham, inventor of the portable magnet electrometer, 'On the Principles, General Bearings, and Utility, of Meteorology, with some Account of Atmospheric Electricity.' On the first part of this paper, Lieut. Morrison observes, "Hitherto, there has been less of practical usefulness in meteorology than in other sciences, for the reason, that it has required a very long series of observations to arrive at any certain and determined data whereon to establish its principles." The great developments of chemical science, the rapid progress made in the science of electricity, and the active exertions now making by the members of the Meteorological Society, have opened the door to the science of meteorology, towards a more rapid march henceforward. Another valuable portion of this paper contains some interesting remarks on the currents of electricity. The following results, extracted from a meteorological diary kept near Liverpool, shew the effect of the electrical currents on Lieut. Morrison's electrometer. 1st. When the air is plus, the north pole of the magnet deflects to the east. This is the case almost always in clear weather in the day time, except when rain or mist is about to ensue in the course of a few hours, when the barometer falls. 2d. When the air is minus, the north pole of the magnet deflects to the west. This is the case almost invariably in thick, misty, or rainy weather, except when fair weather is about to ensue, both by day and night, when the barometer rises. 3d. At the approach of storms, the currents of electricity are greatly disturbed, and the magnet is much agitated, and will remain in a tremulous state, and vary, or oscillate, several degrees in a few minutes: the barometer then falls extensively. Similar results have been observed with this beautiful and delicate instrument at Bahia, and other places in the tropical regions, and also at sea. We could wish this instrument were in more general use, because the results would greatly assist in the development of many meteorological phenomena which have hitherto baffled the efforts of the most active meteorologists. There were several other papers on meteorology, the reading of which was deferred to the adjourned meeting. The plan of a self-registering barometer, by Mr. R. C. Woods, meteorological instrument maker, Hatton Garden, attracted great attention; not from the elegance of the instrument, but its usefulness. The self-registering barometer has been a desideratum among meteorologists for many years. Mr. Woods seems to have overcome this difficulty; and, indeed, if we may be allowed to form our judgment upon his great improvements in the mountain and marine barometers, we should at once say he is capable of overcoming every obstacle that at present impedes the progress of meteorological science. A full description of the instrument, with an engraving, will appear in the Society's Transactions, which will be published during the present session. In the mean time, a slight description of the instrument must be interesting to scientific readers, which cannot be better given than in the inventor's own words. After speaking of the vast number of observations necessary to be made, day and night, in order to find both the maximum and minimum height of the barometer in twenty-four hours, Mr. Woods says: "To supply this deficiency in an instrument so important in the science of meteorology, I have submitted to the Meteorological Society an instrument which will, in the absence of the observer, register the minimum and maximum height of the mercurial column; and which,

from the peculiarity of its construction, is equal, inversely, to obtain the mean height, as by three ordinary barometers: and, in order to render the instrument as complete as possible in the hands of the meteorologist, on the same frame is introduced a mercurial thermometer, Six's registering thermometer, and De Luc's, or Saussure's, hygrometer." Mr. Woods also introduced his double registering thermometer—an instrument which shews how to account for the difference of temperature in two thermometers in the same locality; for even this instrument will give a difference of one degree, where the maximum and minimum are registered twice in the same scale.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.
UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Dec. 6.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Bachelors of Arts.—The Right Hon. Lord Stavordale, Christ Church; J. S. Hodson, Postmaster of Merton College; T. B. Wright; J. B. Riddle, Wadham College.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

DECEMBER 2. The first general meeting of this Society, for the session, was held this day, the right hon. the President in the chair.—Numerous donations to the library and museum of the Society were laid before the members. Among the first was a copy of Professor Gesenius's great work on Phœnician inscriptions which the professor had dedicated to the Society as a mark of his estimation of the utility of the Society in advancing a knowledge of Eastern literature, and as a testimony of his gratitude for the assistance it had afforded him in collecting materials for his work. A paper was read by H. Wilkinson, Esq. 'On the Invention of Gunpowder,' which appears to have had its origin in the East, although the time and place of its discovery are involved in obscurity. The opinion of its oriental origin is rather supported by a number of concurrent probabilities, and by allusions in ancient authors, than by any direct testimony. Upon this subject the writer proposed an ingenious hypothesis, which has much probability. He observed that gunpowder was greatly improved by an admixture with sulphur: it did not necessarily require that ingredient, but that it might be made by charcoal and nitre only. The soil, in many parts both of India and China, is much impregnated with nitre, and it was, no doubt, anciently the custom in those countries, to dress food by wood-fires kindled on the ground; this custom is, indeed, still followed by certain classes in India. In most cases when the fires have been extinguished, a portion of the wood would become charcoal; this mixing with the nitrous soil might be converted into a deflagrating mixture, which would probably, in some of the many instances which took place, be observed by some one of sufficient anxiety to examine into the causes of the extraordinary appearance. Thus would gunpowder be found out, at first, probably, as an amusing plaything, which was destined to grow up to the giant force which, in modern times, had changed the face of the world. Mr. W. then adverted to the Greek fire which was in use as a weapon of war before the application of gunpowder to military purposes, and the accounts of which have been sometimes mistaken for those of gunpowder, so as to give rise to an opinion of the more early introduction of gunpowder than was really the case. The invention has been attributed, by different writers, to our countryman, Roger Bacon, who lived in the 13th century, to the German chemist Schwartz, and to Marino Græcus, who

is supposed to have lived about the 8th and 9th century, and who is quoted by Dr. Jebb in his Preface to Bacon's "Opus Majus;" but it was remarked, that there might have been new discoveries, or that they might have been new applications of what was already known. The paper concluded with details of the proportions of sulphur, nitre, and charcoal, used in making gunpowder at different epochs, and with the observation, as illustration, of the importance of the manufacture to this country, that some of our private manufacturers prepare from 8000 to 10,000 barrels per annum during peace, and from 10,000 to 14,000 during war. When the reading of this paper was concluded, Professor Wilson remarked, that there was no apparent reason to doubt that the Hindus might have been acquainted with gunpowder, but that they most probably used it manufactured only into rockets. Ctesias had alluded to a knowledge possessed by them of something which seemed to be of the nature of the Greek fire. The historical and mythological poetry of the Hindus occasionally introduced a mention of weapons of fire, and this, though generally understood in a mystical sense, might have had its foundation in some real fire arm. Colonel Briggs observed, that in Dow's translation of "Ferišta," guns were spoken of, but that in his opinion the proper term was naphtha. That no guns were used in India before the invasion of Babu in 1537, though mention was made of arrows tipped with naphtha and shot against opposing troops as early as the 9th century. W. Newnham, Esq. read an extract of a letter from a naval officer, who sailed on board the sloop China, from Bombay to the Persian Gulf, in the year 1832, detailing a most remarkable phenomenon, which was seen by all on board, with astonishment and some degree of fear. In the month of August, about eight o'clock at night, while the ship was rapidly advancing with strong wind and high sea, they were, without any interval, instantly surrounded by water as white as milk. The colour near the ship was of a dead white; this brightened as it receded from the ship, until, towards the horizon, it became of a silvery hue. No horizon was, however, visible, but the white colour seemed to ascend towards the zenith, becoming constantly more brilliant and dazzling, so as to obscure the stars, which had been before fully visible. The sea became quite smooth, and the ship perfectly steady, as though in a calm, nor could any appearance indicating her cutting through the water be discerned: notwithstanding which, the wind still continued to blow, and the ship to advance as rapidly as before. The water, when taken up in a bucket, did not differ from ordinary sea-water; it became phosphorescent on being agitated, but not more so than usual; no phosphorescence was visible in the sea itself, being, most probably, overcome by the colour of the water. The vessel sailed about fifteen miles through this white sea, and then left it as suddenly as it reached it, meeting in an instant the tumultuous sea it had been sailing in before. The change in both cases was as rapid as a flash of lightning. The same phenomenon was again observed, two several times, for periods of about twenty minutes' duration; and the appearance was, in both instances, as before described. Colonel Briggs remarked, upon this letter, that he had himself witnessed a similar phenomenon on board the Benares, in the year 1810: that some alarm was, at first, caused by it, but that the captain had witnessed this remarkable appearance before. In fact, he understood that, it was by no means rare, but had been noticed

by most vessels sailing in those latitudes. Adjourned.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Mr. AMYOTT in the chair.—Mr. Cole exhibited an original letter of privy seal of James I., for borrowing 20*l.* of Matthew Cracherode, Esq., dated 30th October, 1604. Mr. J. G. Nichols communicated a description of the enamelled copper-dish exhibited by the Rev. H. Crow, on the 18th of November, and explained the lines on the edges of the two semicircular pieces of which the dish was composed. Mr. Nichols considered that these pieces, now riveted together very clumsily, were never parts of the same, or indeed any dish, but part of the rich ornaments on the binding of a Bible presented to the monastery by Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, and brother of King Stephen. Mr. Gage communicated a description, with a drawing, of a small ancient British buckler, formed in metal, and about fourteen inches across, found in the bed of the Isis, between Wittenham and Dorchester.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; Phrenological, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.; Royal Institution of British Architects, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Linnæan, 8 P.M.; Belgrave Literary (E. Davy, on Electricity and Chemistry, second lecture.)
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 7.
Thursday.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.; Electrical, 7 P.M.

FINE ARTS.
ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE president and members of this institution assembled, as usual, on the evening of Saturday, the 9th instant, to distribute the medals adjudged at a general meeting on the 1st. Among the visitors we observed Lords Abinger and Lyndhurst, Lord Chief Justice Tindall, Sir John Rennie, Sir J. McGregor, R. Vernon, Esq., Samuel Rogers, Esq., and Philip Hardwick, Esq. The president, Sir M. A. Shee, commenced his address by adverting to the loss the academy had sustained since their last meeting, by the demise of its illustrious patron, William the Fourth; whose loss (although supplied in the person of the beloved and amiable princess who now fills the throne) could not but be a source of the deepest regret to every person connected with the academy and the arts. Having concluded his preliminary observations, he proceeded to distribute the medals awarded to the various works of art, expressing the satisfaction felt by the members generally at the ability displayed by the students; but remarking, with regret, the want of energy and enthusiasm in the class of original compositions. The distribution was as follows:—

To Mr. E. B. Morris, for the best original Painting, the Gold Medal, and the Discourses of the Presidents Reynolds and West.

To Mr. John A. Gifford, for the best original design in Architecture, the Gold Medal, and Discourses of the Presidents Reynolds and West.

To Mr. J. Hayes, for the best Copy in the Painting School, the silver medal, and Lectures of Professors Barry, Opie, and Fuseli.

To Mr. Samuel Taylor, for a Copy in the Painting School, the Silver Medal.

To Mr. T. H. Harland, for the best Drawing from the Life, the Silver Medal, and Lectures of Professors Barry, Opie, and Fuseli.

To Mr. J. Waller the Silver Medal was adjudged, but not given, in consequence of his having received a similar premium in the same class.

To Mr. Thomas Burton, for a Drawing from Life, the Silver Medal.

To Mr. ———, for the best Architectural Drawing, the Silver Medal, and Lectures of Professors Barry, Opie, and Fuseli.

To Mr. W. Snook, for an Architectural Drawing, the Silver Medal.

To Mr. A. J. Ashton, for an Architectural Drawing, the Silver Medal.

To Mr. J. Rivers, for a Model from Life, the Silver Medal.

To Mr. W. Carpenter, for the best Drawing from the Antique, the Silver Medal, and Lectures of Barry, Opie, and Fuseli.

To Mr. H. Le Jeune, for a Drawing from the Antique, a Silver Medal.

To Mr. Nelson O'Neal, for a Drawing from the Antique, a Silver Medal.

To Mr. G. Nelson, for a Model from the Antique, a Silver Medal.

The president afterwards delivered an eloquent discourse to the candidates and students.

OLD PAINTING.

WE have been favoured with a view of a picture, deposited in the gallery of Messrs. Yates, in Bond Street, and said to be by Correggio. Although we are not sufficiently well acquainted with the works of this master to be enabled to pass a judgment upon it, we may notice, that the composition of the painting is similar to that of the St. John, by Correggio, engraved by Hollar, with some trifling alteration to suit the different character of the subject—a youthful figure caressing a goat, and called "Young Pan." A great power of chiaro oscuro, richness, and purity of tone, and the light floating tenderly over the picture, evince some of the characteristics of the master to whom it is attributed. Perhaps the drawing is too decided and energetic for him; at least compared with other well-known and authentic productions of his pencil. It has a pedigree, of course; the most important feature of which is, that it was at least 100 years in the mansion of a respectable family in the north of Ireland, whence it came into the possession of its present owner. When there is indubitable merit, we care little for the prestige of a great name, and this composition has great merit of a clearly original stamp. Whoever may have painted it, we have no hesitation in saying that it is not a copy, and that it is well worthy of the notice of the dilettanti.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Benjamin Webster, Comedian, Lessee of the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. Painted and engraved by Henry Meyer. Kenneth.

WE do not remember to have ever had the pleasure of seeing this very clever performer, except upon the stage. As far as his various theatrical countenances enable us to judge, we should suppose that this must be a faithful resemblance of him.

Finden's Ports and Harbours of Great Britain. Part X. Tilt.

THE Preface, inserted in this Part, says, "The volume of Ports and Harbours of Great Britain, now completed, comprises, in a series of fifty engravings, views of most of the principal ports, naval stations, watering-places, and fishing towns, on the English coast, from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Plymouth." During the progress of this interesting work, we have frequently called the attention of our readers to the beautiful manner in which the Messrs. Finden have engraved the faithful though spirited drawings of Messrs. Bulmer, Cooke, Creswick, and Harding. As far as we are acquainted with the subjects, the editor seems to us to be perfectly justified in observing, "In the delineation of each place, the chief object of the artists has been to give a faithful view, to represent the place as it really is, and not to overstep the modesty of nature, for the sake of giving to their subjects the false ornaments of meretricious beauty." We entirely agree with

him, that "the sober delineation of truth is, in such a work as the present, infinitely preferable to the exaggerated representations of fancy."

DRAMA.

Covent Garden.—The opera of *Amilie* rises every night in popularity, and draws crowded houses. That Stanfield has come forward to paint a grand scene for the Christmas pantomime, is much to the credit of all parties; a tribute paid by genius to the honourable effort to redeem the stage and re-establish the national drama. Power also goes to *Covent Garden* early in February. This is as it should be: those who, in public and private, adorn the profession, have but one line of duty to perform.

Haymarket.—On Thursday, "an original domestic drama, by Mr. Frederick Lawrance" (an author unknown to us, and not likely to be much better known if he proceed in the same line), was acted here. The name is *Pierre Bertrand*, and the hero, done by Mr. Ranger, very like his part in the *Romantic Widow*. Two ballads introduced by Mrs. Waylett were, of course, very delicious; and, as for the rest, the originality seemed to consist in the audience being convulsed with laughter at this serious affair; in which some of the performers themselves were occasionally compelled to join.

Opera Buffa.—On Tuesday, Ricci's *Il Nuovo Figaro* was produced at this theatre. In it the lovers of melody had a treat. The music throughout is exceedingly sweet; and we could name some half-dozen delightful airs which are scattered through the opera. The novelty in the dramatic personæ was Signor Castellani, who, in spite of extreme youth and most unaffected nervousness, made a very successful début. His voice is about the quality and compass of Ivanhoff; his style, pure and feeling; and in tune and time, both in concerted pieces and in solos, faultless. These merits will, we have no doubt, render him a great favourite with the elegant audiences of this theatre. Of course we expect to see him, in a short time, better able to manage the business of the stage. On Tuesday his devoted attention to the orchestra was almost painful to witness: we understand it was his first attempt at singing with an orchestra, and, therefore, this will scarcely need an effort to overcome. Bellini, as *Leporello*, sung well, and played better. Franceschini, Mad. Bellini, and Signer Sanquirico, also contributed a fair share of voice to the opera; although the want of a good *prima donna* is the greatest drawback to the theatre. With a perfect orchestra, and so many excellent male vocalists, the inferiority of this lady department is much felt. We look the more anxiously for the much talked-of Schiaroni.

Olympic.—A pretty burlesque, entitled the *Ringdoves*, in which Charles Mathews sustains two characters, one youthful and the other aged, was produced with perfect success on Monday, and has been played nightly during the week. It is very lively and amusing, and the less prominent parts are cleverly performed by Mr. F. Matthews, Mr. Brougham, and Miss Lee.

Queen's Theatre.—Mr. Forrester, of the *St. James's*, and Mr. Wyld, long since proprietor of the *Olympic*, have been added to this smart little company, which is very flourishing under the management of Miss Desborough.

VARIETIES.

A Scientific Spouter.—Of this class, there are not a few nuisances in society. Men of

few ideas and many words, who, seeing nothing clearly, envelope their opinions in a jargon of verbiage, often utterly destitute of meaning, and never with any sense worthy of gathering. One of these fellows was quaintly described the other day by a gentleman, who had listened with much impatience to his engrossing the attention of a party for several hours. "Sir," said he, "if you had only to tell us that Sunday was a finer day than Monday, you would prolixly enounce that the morrow of Saturday last was more genial and salubrious than yesterday of the ensuing Tuesday." This whimsical imprudent silenced the philosopher.

Caricatures.—Three more H. B.s, Nos. 506, 7, and 8, have just been added to that copious storehouse of political humour. The first, entitled "The Rival Quacks," is a very good one, representing Lord John Russell looking wretchedly sick, with O'Connell on one side insisting on his taking his "black draught," labelled "Universal Suffrage, Vote by Ballot, Annual Parliaments," whilst a reserve box of "Repeal Pills," is seen under the table; and Mr. Wakley backed by Mr. Hume, on the other side, pressing three pills, inscribed "Abolition of Tithes." Wakley's figure is capitally hit off, and the reluctance of the patient, indeed the supposed feelings of the whole group, admirably expressed. The next is exceedingly droll; the Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Wellington, as old cronies nurses, calling to remembrance the birth of the queen, blessing "her little heart," and chuckling over that "happy day, and the finger they had in the pie." The last is also an original invention: O'Connell, "a devotee doing homage," is kissing the pope's toe, his holiness being embodied in the noble secretary for home affairs, with Lord Morpeth and Mr. Spring Rice attending him as cardinals. In all three, to use a common phrase, H. B. is in great feather.

Joan of Arc.—With the above Pope Joan, has appeared from the same publisher's (Mr. McLean), a spirited whole-length by R. J. Lane, of Miss Huddart as *Joan of Arc*. The gallant bearing and striking action of the heroine are faithfully given, and in these (though we cannot have a picture of voice and manner also), the public will readily recognise some of the attractions of this effective and popular drama, one of the most interesting and beautiful of its kind ever sent upon the stage.

South African Exhibition.—We should not be paying our usual attention to youthful friends, did we not remind them and their parents of an exhibition which is, in our opinion, eminently calculated to please and instruct them. We allude to Dr. Smith's unrivalled collection of natural history, &c. at the Egyptian Hall. The animals, many of them rare, and some of them unique, are all but alive in their preservation; and not only are there the instruments, utensils, &c. of the natives, but figures of the natives themselves, Caffre and Hottentot, so well imitated, that the spectators may easily fancy themselves three hundred miles in the interior of the Cape. Sightings like these make indelible impressions on the mind, and are most valuable for the young.

Sacred Harmonic Society.—The concert for the ensuing week (the *Messiah*) is, we are informed, so much in request, that a repetition of the performance must take place to meet the public desire to hear it.

Weather-Wisdom.—We have had no tendency to storms about the middle of the month, nor was yesterday changeable and windy, but very fine weather. "The aspects on the 17th

and 18th shew winds, and probably snow. The 19th milder. The aspects are strong for snow or much rain, and also high winds about the 21st day. The 24th very gloomy, and high winds with heavy rain."

Roman Antiquities.—Some very interesting Roman antiquities have been discovered near Buckingham, evidently the remains of an ancient villa.

Newspaper Paragraphing.—In an account of a distressing accident by a coal-pit explosion, this week, the provincial newswriter says, that the sufferers were instantly blown into "everlasting eternity!"

Pompeii.—A discovery of a novel description and much interest has recently been made among the ruins of Pompeii. Near the street of the Tombs, where the excavations are carried on with most industry, the vestibule of a house has been exposed, with four Mosaic pillars, fifteen feet in height. Relics so curious excite great expectations of what the house itself may contain.

Astronomy.—In the Philosophical Transactions for 1783 there is a paper of the late Sir William Herschel, in which he shews (p. 273) the probability of the solar system having a progressive motion towards a point in the heavens near λ Herculis (the right ascension of which star, in the beginning of 1830, was $260^{\circ} 58'$, and its declination, at the same time, $26^{\circ} 41' N$.) This gives a singular interest to the following extract from a letter of the Baron Struve to Professor Schumacker, which is published in the "Astronomische Nachrichten," No. 331, p. 315:—"Argelander has lately sent to the Academy of St. Petersburg a paper, which is of the greatest importance, since it puts beyond doubt the progress of the solar system towards a point, that agrees very nearly with that assigned by Herschel, namely, towards

$260^{\circ} 50'$ R.A. with a probable error of $3^{\circ} 28'$
 $31^{\circ} 17'$ Decl. $2^{\circ} 20'$

The result rests upon the proper motions of 300 stars; each of which exceeds the yearly amount of $0^{\circ} 1'$. This is the fruit of the short existence of the Observatory of Abo, contained in the excellent catalogue of 500 stars, published by Argelander, in 1835."—Communicated to the

Hydraulic Telegraph.—A Mr. Wishaw is stated in the newspapers to have invented a telegraph, on hydraulic principles, which may communicate intelligence, accurately and speedily, by means of the rise and fall of water in tubes laid down between the points of communication. The expense of the apparatus is estimated at 200*l.* per mile. When the scheme is brought to bear, and carry news in this way, how literal will be the line of Shakespeare—

"There is a tide in the affairs of men!"

and, then, the rapid answer—

"If taken at the flood leads on to fortune:"

and the delay of a reply by return of water-level—

"Neglected, all the current of their lives
Is bound in shallows," &c.

St. Paul's Church, &c.—At length the national disgrace of making this noble national cathedral a penny show, is removed. It will henceforward be gratuitously open to the people for several hours daily (viz. from 9 to 11, and from 3 to 4 o'clock); and, as the Tower is also to be seen at the cost of 1*s.* instead of the impost of 3*s.*, we may fairly congratulate the public on the prospect that no other public place can be much longer shut in its face. Under proper and necessary restrictions, against

which there cannot be a murmur, it is gratifying to find this reproach passing away.

Literary Correspondence.—The following is handed about the *Blue Circles* just now, we know not with what foundation, as a genuine copy of a note from a distinguished authoress to her printer, who is engaged on the novel entitled "Love," announced by Mr. Colburn.

"Dear Sir,—How comes it that I have had no proofs of Love from you, since last Saturday. I have waited with the utmost impatience.—Yours, &c. C. B.—"

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Mr. Morison, of Liverpool, formerly of Perth, announces a Work tracing the Origin and History of all Religion, of all Idolatry, Astrology, and Superstition, in every form.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

On Diseases of the Rectum, by Mr. Syme, F.R.S.E., 8vo. 5s.—Plain Directions for Making Wills, in Conformity with the New Act, by J. C. Hudson, of the Legacy Duty Office, London. 18mo. 2s. 6d.—A Manual of Family and Private Devotions, by J. Cochrane, 3d edition, 12mo. 6s. 6d.—Conversations on the Truth of Holy Scriptures, by a Clergyman's Widow, 18mo. 3s. 6d.—An Introductory Lecture on Political Economy, by H. Merivall, A.M., 8vo. 2s.—The Rose Amateur's Guide, a Companion to the Savidge's Collection of Roses, by T. Rivers, 8vo. 5s. 6d.—Heath's Shakespeare Gallery, super-royal, 8vo. 2s. 2s.; royal 4to. 3s. 13s. 6d.; India proofs, 4s. 18s.—Winkley's English Cathedral, Vol. II., imperial 8vo. 1s. 1s.—Gammonia, or the Art of Preserving Game, by L. Rawstone, Esq., 12s. 1s.—The New Latin Grammar, by C. Moody, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Erskine's Institutes of the Laws of Scotland, by A. Macculloch, royal 8vo. 1s. 12s. 6d.; 2 vols. royal 4to. 2s. 12s. 6d.—Jane Lomax; or, a Mother's Crime, 3 vols. post 8vo. 1s. 11s. 6d.—Dendy on Diseases of the Skin, 8vo. 6s. 6d.—The Spiritual Sacrifice, arranged as a Manual of Devotion, post 8vo. 7s.—Sermons on Various Topics of Doctrine, Practice, and Experience, by Rev. F. Grode, 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Jardine's Naturalist's Library, Vol. XX. British Birds, 12mo. 6s.—The Laws and Constitution of England, 8vo. 1s.—The Derbyshire Tourist's Guide, by E. Rhodes, 12mo. 6s. 6d.—The Life of A. Kilham, post 8vo. 6s. 6d.—Autographs, Letters, &c. of Illustrious and Distinguished Women of Great Britain, 4to. 1s. 10s.—Ages of Female Beauty, 4to. 1s. 1s.—On the Redemption; a Sacred Poem, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Physical Education, by S. Smiles, fcap. 3s. 6d.—Popular Treatise on the Human Teeth, by J. L. Murphy, fcap. 5s.—Le Bilon Littéraire, par C. Victor Martin, 12mo. 5s.—Two Systems of Distinguishing French Substantives, by E. Salmon, 12mo. 1s. 5s.—Temper, a Treatise on its Use and Abuse, 18mo. 3s. 6d.—E. Quin's Universal History, from the Creation to 1838, 12mo. 6s.—A Elemental Lexicon, by the Rev. P. Keith, 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Elements of Drawing and Painting in Water Colours, by J. T. C. 12mo. 8s. 6d.—Analysis of Railways, by F. Wishaw, 2d edition, 8vo. 6s.—Dr. Croly on the Apocalypse, 3d edition, post 8vo. 6s. 6d.—Illustrations of the Pickwick Papers, by Sam Weller, 8vo. 9s.—The Anatomist, by H. Savage, 48mo. 2s.—The Christian's Daily Treasury, by E. Temple, 12mo. 5s. 6d.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1837.

December.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday ... 7	From 37 to 37	29.75 to 29.72
Friday ... 8	... 27 ... 40	29.63 ... 29.61
Saturday ... 9	... 29 ... 39	29.58 ... 29.74
Sunday ... 10	... 27 ... 39	29.92 ... 29.97
Monday ... 11	... 32 ... 39	29.98 ... 30.02
Tuesday ... 12	... 36 ... 39	29.92 ... 29.95
Wednesday 13	... 30 ... 43	29.88 ... 30.08

Prevailing wind, N.E.
Except the afternoons of the 10th and 13th, generally cloudy, with rain at times; a little snow on the morning of the 7th.
Rain fallen, .25 of an inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.
Latitude 51° 37' 39" N.
Longitude 3 51, W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*. We request our friends and readers in and about London, to take notice that the stamped *Literary Gazette* may now be sent postage free throughout the circuit of the twopenny post, or about ten miles round the metropolis. Thus, subscribers over all this populous district may receive their *Gazette* early on the day of publication, from which convenience we have the pleasure to anticipate a considerable accession to their number.

In our report of Mr. Hunter's historical paper relating to Sir Thomas de Gournay, in the last number of the *Literary Gazette*, we should have stated, that he had derived much information on the subject from several documents found by him among the ancient records of the Exchequer, which connected and explained some of those in the *Fœdera*.

ADVERTISEMENTS, Connected with Literature and the Arts.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, FALL MALL. NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS.

All Pictures and Works of Art intended for Exhibition and Sale, must be sent to the Gallery on Monday the 15th, or Tuesday the 16th of January, 1838, between the Hours of Ten in the Morning and Five in the Evening, after which time no Picture or other Work of Art will be received. Portraits and Drawings in Water-Colours are inadmissible.

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November 1837.

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